



OPINION

FFA
Leadership for a growing planet

This week FFA members from all over the country promoted FFA, agricultural education and the food and fiber industry.

This year's theme is FFA — Leadership for a Growing Planet. During FFA week and throughout the year, FFA chapters pursue activities which show that they are leading the effort for a better environment. Planting trees, starting community recycling efforts and restoring mining areas are just a few of the initiatives planned by various chapters across the country.

The week also provides FFA members in thousands of chapters across the U.S., Guam, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands the chance to create awareness of and support for agricultural education and the FFA. Public service announcements at the local, state and national levels will help spread the message.

Agricultural education classes stress hands-on experience in diverse areas of agriculture. FFA activities provide leadership development, career training and award incentives for young people.

Lee Thurber, national FFA president from Roca, Neb., said FFA Week is an opportunity for members and communities to recognize achievements and activities available through FFA and agricultural education. This year's theme challenges FFA members to make a difference in their communities by thinking globally, but acting locally.

We agree!

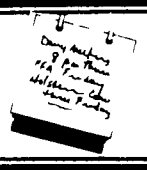
"No one cares more about the environment than those of us who work in agriculture," said Thurber. "Through agricultural education and the FFA, our members put their values into practice as they learn about the causes — and solutions — to the challenges being posed to our environment."

Each year FFA Week is held during the week of George Washington's birthday to recognize his leadership and commitment to American agriculture. The National FFA Center is located on part of Washington's original Mt. Vernon estate near Alexandria, Va.

FFA is a national organization of 382,748 members in 7,744 local chapters throughout the United States, Guam, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands preparing for leadership and careers in the science, business and technology of agriculture. Local, state and national activities and award programs provide opportunities for students to apply knowledge and skills acquired through agricultural education. FFA members strive to develop agricultural leadership, cooperation and citizenship.

Our young people represent the future of agriculture. And FFA is our youth. Therefore it can be said that FFA is the future of agriculture. Long live FFA!

Farm Calendar



Saturday, February 22
 Maryland Holstein Convention,
 Sandy Cove, Northeast and

Holstein Cattle Sale, Sandy Cove.
 Second toastmaster's meeting.

NOW IS THE TIME
 By John Schwartz
 Lancaster County Agricultural Agent

To Install And Check Smoke Alarms

Most fires in the home happen between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. Most victims die from smoke and poisonous gas inhalation long before the flames reach them.

This winter, several rural families have died in their homes because no smoke alarms had been installed.

Everyone should install UL or FM labeled smoke detectors that sense smoke and sound an alarm that will awake you in time to escape. Detectors should be placed on the ceiling or high on the walls outside bedroom areas.

In a multilevel home, each level should have a smoke detector. Smoke detectors should be tested weekly, especially when children are present. This allows children to learn what the smoke detector sounds like and what they should do when they hear it.

The batteries should be replaced annually. Non-working detectors are a growing problem and about one-fourth of all U.S. homes have non-operational detectors. Dead or missing batteries was the main cause for non-functional detectors.

By installing and checking smoke detectors on a regular basis, you could save your family's lives.

Lactations Begin With Dry Periods

Glenn Shirk, extension dairy agent, reminds us a cow's dry period is the foundation for her next lactation.

A cow's lactation will be no better than the care she received during her dry period.

Providing dry cows the care they need requires extra effort and an investment in proper facilities. Dry cows need a special feed ration that is formulated to meet their specific needs.

Your regular lactating ration

Lancaster Farm and Home Center, 8:30 a.m.
 Breeding efficiency and pasture management for the small beef herd, Washington Co. Fairgrounds, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
 McKean/Potter horse leaders meeting, Smethport.

(Turn to Page A31)

simply will not accomplish this. Cows, also, need special attention 2 to 3 weeks before calving and 1 week after calving. This means you need to have two dry cow groups and a recently freshen group. You will need facilities that permit you to manage these groups separately.

Calves Need Energy In Cold Weather

When we get cold, we put on a coat, turn up the thermostat, or stroke the furnace or fireplace.

When animals get cold, they have to generate more body heat by burning up body fat or by consuming more energy.

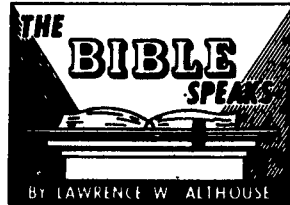
Calves are born with very little

body fat. Therefore, to replace lost body heat, they need to consume more energy.

We help them to do this by feeding more milk or milk replacer, feeding higher fat replacers, or by feeding more grain and forages. We also help calves reduce body heat loss by providing them with a clean, dry, well bedded, draft free pen or by moving them indoors to a warmer environment.

Remember, it is much more important to provide a calf with fresh, germ-free air than with warm housing when the barn is damp and stuffy.

Feather Prof's Footnote: "The man who rolls up his sleeves seldom loses his shirt."



Background Scripture: Revelation 15:2-4; 19:1-8.

Devotional Reading: Colossians 1:9-20.

There is a cartoon by Stan Hunt that I clipped from *The New Yorker* some years ago. The scene is inside a church. The congregation is standing and singing. Turning to her husband who appears to be singing lustily, a wife says: "Easy on the hallelujah, Harry."

I guess it is possible to get carried away with hallelujahs, but the problems with lots of us is just the opposite: too little, not too much of them. In our church we sing the Hallelujah Chorus by Handel twice a year, at Christmas and Easter, and these, of course, are appropriate occasions. Most of Handel's great work is based upon the Book of Revelation and its great panorama of God's ultimate victory, especially Revelation 19. **WHAT WE NEED**

I've often noted that on these occasions, regardless of what else may be happening in our personal lives — tragedy, sorrow, depression and so forth — the Hallelujah Chorus feels "right" because the great significance of Christmas or Easter over-shadow our own personal concerns. That is, blessed with the vision of God's ultimate triumph, we see our own personal situations in perspective and we realize that, no matter how painful they may be, the promise of God's victory is greater.

Of course, what we're talking about here is not the singing of the Hallelujah Chorus but the victorious faith upon which it is based. The word Hallelujah comes from the Hebrew meaning, "Praise Yahweh," or, as we'd say it today, "Praise God!" That is what we could have a lot more of in our lives.

The interesting thing about praise and thanksgiving is that, although we assume it is something that God wants from us, it is

much more something that God wants from us, it is much more something we need than God does. What is missing from the lives of many people today — both inside and outside the churches — is the experience of praising and thanking God in a manner that goes somewhat beyond the perfunctory. Paderewski, the great Polish pianist, used to say that if he missed practicing one day, he knew it. If he missed several days, the critics knew it. And if he missed a week, everyone knew it. In a sense, that is what happens to our lives when we fail to give God our Hallelujahs.

SOMETHING TO CELEBRATE

Why are Hallelujahs in such short supply in our lives? In my own case, I waste too much time waiting for something to celebrate — Christmas, Easter, a birth in the family, a book of ours published, something good happens to a friend and so forth. In other words, we reserve our Hallelujahs for those times when we obviously have something to celebrate. But, as the writer of Revelation indicates, we always have something to celebrate. Hallelujahs are always appropriate in our lives because we live by the assurance that ultimately God's purpose will be fulfilled and the great scene in the Book of Revelation will become a reality.

So, no matter what happens to us in our daily lives, we focus, not upon our defeats and disappointments, but upon our promise, singing or saying: "Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God, for his judgments are true and just" (19:1b). And when we take the time and effort to praise God in the midst of our lives no matter what the circumstances may be — we gain the power to meet those challenges and go on to the ultimate victory.

"Hallelujah" gives us the power to live victoriously here and now. So when is the right time to sing Hallelujah? When all is going well, when all is not going well, and for every situation in between.

(Have you read Mr. Althouse's *What You Need Is What You've Got?* Copies are available from: L. Althouse, 1st United Methodist Church, Ross & Harwood Sts., Dallas, TX 75201, \$11.30 including postage.)

Lancaster Farming
 Established 1955
 Published Every Saturday
 Ephrata Review Building
 1 E. Main St.
 Ephrata, PA 17522
 — by —
 Lancaster Farming, Inc.
 A Steinman Enterprise
 Robert G. Campbell General Manager
 Everett R. Newswanger Managing Editor
 Copyright 1991 by Lancaster Farming

